

HUNT FOR VILLA TO BE CONTINUED

PENDING OUTCOME OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CARRANZA GOVERNMENT.

NO NEW ORDERS ARE ISSUED

Carranza Military Forces Must Prove Their Ability to Stop Brigandage on the Border States.

Washington.—The United States is prepared to treat with General Carranza as proposed in his note for the withdrawal of American troops from Mexico. Pending the outcome of the diplomatic negotiations, however, the status of the expedition will remain unchanged and the pursuit of Villa continue.

This was the situation officially stated after President Wilson and his cabinet had considered the new phases of the Mexican problem raised by General Carranza's communication. Secretary Lansing said he was prepared to take up the matter with the de facto government, but would not indicate when a reply might be sent. Secretary Baker said no new orders had been sent to General Funston and that none were under contemplation.

Both Secretaries said there had been no change in the policy of the Administration which prompted the pursuit of Villa.

Secretary Lansing would not say whether he was prepared to negotiate with the de facto government for the possible fixing of a date for withdrawal of American troops. He indicated that the time element of any agreement would be based on what developed in the pursuit of the bandit. As the Administration's attitude is understood here, a satisfactory demonstration by the Carranza military forces of their ability to stop all brigandage in the border states would see the object of the American expedition accomplished.

Senator Stone, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, is thought to have voiced the Administration view to the senate, speaking after a conference with Secretary Lansing.

"The problem confronting this government," the Senator said, "is how long it would be wise to keep an expeditionary force in Mexico. If we adhere to our policy towards Mexico, we cannot keep the army there. To my mind the only alternative to withdrawing the troops sooner or later is intervention."

SENATE VOTES 42 TO 22 FOR BIG NITRATE PLANT.

Smith Amendment Carries \$15,000,000 For Government's Proposed Venture. Washington.—The senate adopted the army bill amendment of Senator Smith, South Carolina, appropriating \$15,000,000 for a government nitrate plant. The vote was 42 to 22.

This action disposed of the second big fight in the Senate over the senate substitute for the house army reorganization bill.

Senator Smith's amendment provides for the sale of Panama Canal bonds for raising the required \$15,000,000 and the president is authorized to designate not more than five water-power sites for power plants. When products of these plants, which will be operated exclusively by the government, are not needed for manufacture of munitions of war the surplus could be disposed of by the secretary of war for fertilizer.

RUSSIANS CLAIM DEFEAT OF GERMANS IN EAST

Except for the artillery wings of the contending armies there has been no fighting at any point on the long front in France and Belgium.

Several days now have elapsed since the Germans launched a heavy attack on the positions in dispute before Verdun, but their artillery has continued vigorously to shell the La Motte Homme sector northwest of Verdun and the second line positions of the French to the east of the Meuse.

In the Argonne the French continue to operate with their guns against German points of vantage and in the region of Pont-a-Mousson they have shelled convoys of Germans.

On the Russian front the Germans essayed attacks between Lakes Svenen and Ilzen, but were repulsed with heavy casualties. In Galicia, southeast of Bouchache, the Germans also took the offensive, but here again were repulsed. The Russians claim the capture in the Stripa region of a German position and the putting down of counter-attacks launched with the intention of recapturing it.

A new bank has been formed at Estill with \$25,000 capital.

About 100 lawyers were present in Charleston at the annual meeting of the State Bar Association.

By a vote of 36 to 9 the taxpayers of Mt. Andrew school district, Dillon county, changed the special levy for school purposes of their district from 4 mills to 6.

The Columbia fire insurance agents have organized committees to make preparation for the proper entertainment of the South Carolina Underwriters' association which meets in Columbia May 19.

Correct the Habit Habit.

The surest way to bring on premature old age is to get into a rut. On the other hand, the surest way to avert old age is to get out of the rut. If you desire to keep young, do not make your habits hard and fast, or your arteries will likewise become so. Govern your habits; do not let them rule you. Just to show them that they do not, order them to break ranks from time to time.—Brain and Brawn.

VILLA IS AGAIN REPORTED DEAD

DE FACTO GOVERNMENT SETS OUT TO PROVE DEATH OF BANDIT LEADER.

ARE INCLINED TO ACCEPT

Reports from Chihuahua Are Regarded as Confirmatory By American Officials at El Paso.

El Paso, Texas.—Francisco Villa is dead, and his body, disinterred some days after his burial, is in possession of the Carranza troops, according to a series of telegraphic messages received in Juarez by the Mexican officials.

For more than a week reports that Villa had died from wounds have been current here and in Juarez. Latest accounts were the most circumstantial and apparently reliable yet received. They were accepted with reserve by American officials including General Bell, but Mexican officials expressed confidence in their reliability.

The dispatcher of the Mexican Northwestern Railroad at Juarez reported to General Gavira Carranza commander at Juarez, that he had heard a conversation on the telephone wire to the effect that Villa's body was in the hands of the Carranza troops. General Gavira notified Consul Garcia here with messages to the telegraph at Madera and Cusihuiriuchi asking for confirmation. The Madera and Cusihuiriachi answered affirming the report and stating the body was being taken to Chihuahua.

The telegraph operator at San Antonio, 50 miles west of Chihuahua, telegraphed Consul Garcia that Villa's body was in possession of Colonel Carlos Carranza, nephew of General Carranza, who was taking it in a special train to Chihuahua.

IF VILLA IS DEAD U. S. WILL WITHDRAW.

Washington Makes Unqualified Statement When Report of Bandit's Death is Heard.

Washington.—American troops will be withdrawn from Mexico if Francisco Villa is dead. Administration officials made this unqualified statement, commenting on reports from Mexican sources that the bandit's body had been discovered and was being taken to Chihuahua City by special train.

The State and War Departments were without confirmatory advice on the subject from American sources. Reports reaching El Paso and other border points were forwarded for information, but neither American consul nor military authorities in Mexico were heard from.

Every message received was closely scrutinized at the State Department and sent to the White House. In some quarters there was a disposition to credit them, despite the fact that border reports generally have been viewed with much suspicion since the pursuit began.

AT VERDUN WAR MUST END SAYS THE EMPEROR.

Paris.—A semi-official note just issued reviews the recent operations about Verdun and gives an order of the day of General Petain, commanding at Verdun, in praise of the resistance of the French troops to the recent offensive of the Germans. The note concludes:

"The Emperor some days ago reviewed one of the divisions engaged in the region between Douaumont and Vaux and it was there that he said: 'The war of 1870 was decided at Paris. The present war must end at Verdun.'"

General Petain's order follows: "The ninth day of April is a glorious day for our arms. The ferocious assaults of the soldiers of the Crown Prince have been everywhere broken. Infantrymen, artillerymen, sappers and aviators of the Eleventh Army were rivals in heroism. The honor is all."

"The Germans, without doubt, will attack again. Let every one work and watch to obtain the same success as yesterday. Have courage. We will get them."

U. S. MOTOR TRUCK TRAIN ATTACKED BY BANDITS.

San Antonio, Texas.—General Pershing reported to headquarters that a motor-truck train carrying aeroplanes was attacked by 40 bandits, 15 miles north of Satevo. The Mexicans were driven off and one of their number was killed.

Lewis W. Parker Dead.

Greenville.—Lewis W. Parker, organizer and former president of the Parker Cotton Mills company and formerly president of the American Cotton Manufacturers' association, died at his home on east Washington street in Greenville. Mr. Parker had been in failing health for some time. He was a figure of national prominence in the manufacturing world, rising rapidly after leaving the practice of law and entering the cotton mill field. He was affiliated with other great industries also.

Hamlet in South Africa.

It can hardly be expected that "post impressionism" will be confined to pictures in the future. A friend writes from South Africa that some genius out there has done "Hamlet" in the Tait and quotes the following example, which seems to me extremely post-impressionistic. Here it is: Hamlet—"Wie is u?" Ghost—"Ik is u." Hamlet—"Wie spook is u?" Ghost—"Ik is u papa's spook."

HOSPITABLE YORK PLANS FOR EDITORS

EVERY CITIZEN IN TOWN IS ENGAGED IN PREPARATIONS FOR MEETING.

CONVENES JUNE 12th TO 15th

Excursions, Automobile Trips, Reception and Picnics Free to Members of Fourth Estate and Wives.

York.—Famed for its hospitality since the days of the Revolutionary war, York bids fair to surpass all previous records in this entertainment this year tendered the members of the South Carolina press association. From the time that the tidings were received about two weeks ago, saying that the association had agreed to come here for its annual meeting, June 12-15, to the present, every man in town has been doing his very best in the way of preparing for the meeting. With the appointment of the committees for the various branches of the work, the local people have redoubled their efforts. The president of the Board of Trade has appointed committees on finance, reception, transportation, entertainment, etc., and every member of every committee is now hard at work.

Arrangements have been perfected with the Carolina & North-Western railway by which a special pullman train will be placed at the disposal of the press association for a trip from York to Edgemont, N. C., and return, and a special lunch will be served at the terminus of the railroad. The next day all members of the press association will be taken on an automobile trip to historic battlefield of Kings Mountain, which is in York county, and a community picnic will be enjoyed at All Healing Springs. A public reception, to which all the people of York and surrounding towns will be invited, will be one of the chief events of the editors' three days stay here. This will enable all the public to meet all the editors.

Every bit of entertainment offered by York is to be free of charge and no editor in the state is expected to spend one cent while he is in this city. Members of the local committee say that they propose to leave nothing undone that can be done looking to the comfort and entertainment of the visiting members of the Fourth Estate.

Advices from the executive committee of the association are to the effect that some of the best known magazines and newspaper men in the United States have been invited here to make addresses during the meeting of the association and indications are that at least two of the foremost ones will accept.

From now until June the cry among all newspaper men of South Carolina will be "On to York."

Vote Money For Library.

Greenville.—Citizens of Greenville voted for a special tax of \$4,000 a year for 50 years to be used in the maintenance of a county library. The plan is to have the county deed the site of the present record building situated across the street from the court house to the library association. Carnegie will be asked for \$40,000 with which to remodel or rebuild the Record building and the city will stand the maintenance expense. Rest rooms and other conveniences for visitors to the city will be incorporated in the library building.

Mutual is Assured Fact.

Greenville.—The Greenville Mutual Fire Insurance company is now an assured fact. Eighty-two substantial citizens of Greenville have signed statements signifying a willingness to place with the mutual company \$4,000 insurance, on dwellings or brick buildings. The company will not insure contents, nor will it, for the present, write more than \$1,000 on any risk. This is the first mutual formed in Greenville since the beginning of the present fire insurance problem in this state.

Director of Public Health Named.

Spartanburg.—Dr. C. E. Lowe of the Rockefeller sanitary commission, New York, is to become director of public health of Spartanburg, according to an announcement made by Dr. J. H. Allen, president of the board of health, who had just had a conference with Mayor Floyd and Commissioner Hudson and received their approval of his recommendation of Dr. Lowe. Dr. Lowe is an authority and an experienced man in this work and those responsible for his selection believe the city is fortunate in securing his services.

Governor Saves Tolbert's Life.

Gov. Manning commuted the sentence of death imposed upon A. C. Tolbert of Greenwood to a life term in the state penitentiary. Tolbert was convicted on the charge of killing his wife. He said: "This action is based on the recommendation of the board of pardons and the report of Dr. Sandy of the State Hospital for the Insane, who made a thorough examination into the mental condition of Tolbert. These reports convinced the governor of Tolbert's mental irresponsibility."

The Actor's Mistake.

Toole, the English actor, used to get off a good thing occasionally. At dinner at a country hotel he was sitting next to a gentleman who had helped himself to an extravagantly large piece of bread. Toole took it up and began to cut a slice from it. "Sir," said the indignant gentleman, "that is my slice of bread." "That is my slice of bread," replied the actor, "I mistook it for the loaf."

QUICK ACTION!

PRE-EASTER WRECK STORE SPECIALS!

These Specials call for Quick Action from you. They won't last long, as there are but few in each lot. They go on Sale Thursday Morning, but we are sure they will all be gone before Easter Sunday. Don't delay a moment if you want first choice.

Ladies' Pretty Nifty Taffetea Dresses.

Neatly trimmed, with old braid on Georgrette Crepe, Georgrette Sleeves, colors Cerise, Midnight Blue, and Bolond Blue, sizes 16 to 40.

Special before Easter,

\$10.98.

Pretty Gaberdines and Corduroy Wash Skirts.

About 10 different styles to choose from, you must have one of these pretty models for Easter or Sport Wear. Price before they are all gone,

98c to \$1.98

Ladies 98c Waist--Special.

They are this season the prettiest Styles, the colors are: Old Rose, Open Blue, Pink, Flesh, White, Lavender and Blue Striped, Etc; If you come at once, Price

98c

Sport Coats.

Right now is the time, for you to get that Easter Sport Coat, we have about 40 of them, that we are sure to sell by Easter. Pretty

Stripes and Checks and Chinchella, Price,

\$4.98 and \$5.98

About Your Easter Hat

Right now our Millinery Department is just full of all that is the latest in the Creation of Millinery, and at prices that will astonish you.

Considering the Timeliness and quality of our hats, we

have no hesitation in saying that our prices are

the lowest in Sumter County.

Extra Special. Our Ladies Low Shoes and Pumps

Pretty Pumps, in Patent Leather and Kid, both low and High Heels, also the Latest shade of Bronze, and the newest White Kid Pumps,

with the White Ivory Soles and Heels. Surely you cannot

miss at least one pair of these shoes, at such

a low price, at

\$2 69

Some Specials

In Ladies Spring Suits that we cannot fully describe here but you must come and see the pretty styles, to appreciate them, and as for price

we can promise you that it will be the lowest that these

Suits can ever be bought for. Take our advice, Hurry.

Mens Suits

In the Seasons most popular Clothes, and designs, as well as new Serges, A very handsome suit at a very popular price. Until Saturday Evening

\$9 98

Very Special

Just when you are starting to think of them, we just received a fine lot of Panama Hats, the finest styles you ever saw, and you know there

is nothing more stylish than a fine Panama for Spring and

Summer. Yes your size is waiting for you, Price,

\$2 69

Mens Low Shoes

In Hatent, Gun Metal and Tan. We have a fine line of high grade Shoes, such well known brands, as Nettleton, Regal, and Florsheim, in the English Last Etc. These Shoes are worth as high as \$7.00

per pair. Our Special Price,

\$2 98 to \$3 50

Very Nifty Wash Suits

For Young Boys in pretty fast colors, sizes from 2 1-2 to 8. Pretty Sail-or effects, Etc. Styles, and Russian Blouses, Price,

98c

Easter Shirts for Men

Handsome fast Color Stripes and Hain White, with or without Collars, also the latest Sport Styles, sizes 14 to 17. Bargains at

49c to 98c

Mens Trousers

From the Heavy Kabki and Corduroys, to the pretty patterns of all Wool and Summer weight Serges, we have the very Truser you want at

the price you want to pay, Price,

98c to \$3 50

Mens Spring and Summer Light Weight Underwear

Athletic, and Balbriggan Shirts and Drawers, and Union Suits, with a saving of almost 20 per cent on each Garment. Special Price,

The Garment,

19c to 49c

ALWAYS REMEMBER

THE WRECK STORE,

ALWAYS SAVES YOU MONEY.

Next to Post Office.

Sumter S. C.

Where the Akhund Rules.

Swat is the name of a valley and petty state northeast of Afghanistan. It takes its name from the River Swat, the Sonnes of the ancient Greek geographers—an indirect tributary of the River Kabul. Its people belong to a race called Yusufzai. Akhund is the title of their rulers. The old line of princes, which till a comparatively late time ruled in Swat, claimed descent from Alexander the Great.

Fuel Qualities of Wood.

The fuel qualities of chestnut adapt it particularly to work in brass foundries, where it gives just the required amount of heat and it is therefore in favor. Commerce vessels in Florida pay twice as much for Florida butternut as for any other, because it burns with an even heat and with a minimum amount of smoke and ash. The principal disadvantage of the resinous pines is their oily black smoke.

Life Without Lace.

"One can't help thinking what a colorless life a man is forced to lead, when one reflects that chiffon and Venetian point and hand embroidery and Irish crochet are to him mere empty words. Whereas a woman, whether she is interested in babies, or microbes, or husbands, or poetry, or Plato, or bridge, is fundamentally and always interested in clothes.—From Daddy-Long Legs, by Jean Webster.

Owns a Cat With a Long "Reelpe."

One of the officers of the Cat club heard that an east side woman has an exceptionally valuable cat which might be exhibited at the forthcoming cat show, and called her on the telephone to inquire about it. "Yes, he's a valuable cat," the woman replied. "We wouldn't take \$200 for him. We paid \$50 for him when he was a little kitten, and he's got a long reelpe."

Parnell Loved Washington Girl.

Charles Stewart Parnell fell desperately in love with a Washington belle, but she said she would marry no one but an ambassador or some famous man. Within a few years from that time Parnell was carried upon the crest wave of enthusiasm and his fame was worldwide, but no one ever knew the name, outside of political circles, of the man the proud woman married.